

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9111

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, GR, TU, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET CONCERN OVER CURRENT TRENDS OF THE
SITUATION IN CYPRUS

FOLLOWING REPORT APPEARED IN THE TIMES OF MARCH 28,
FILED BY MARIO MODIANO, ATHENS, MARCH 27:

"SOVIET MOVE TO HEAD OFF 'THREAT' TO CYPRUS".

"THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN DRASTIC
DIPLOMATIC ACTION IN LONDON, WASHINGTON, ANKARA, AND
PARTICULARLY ATHENS, TO MANIFEST ITS CONCERN OVER
CURRENT TRENDS OF THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS.

"RUMOURS OF A COUP TO OVERTHROW PRESIDENT
MAKARIOS, COMBINED WITH ALLEGATIONS OF SECRET ATHENS-
ANKARA CONTACTS FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT AND INDICATIONS
THAT THE ATHENS LEADERS HAD TAKEN FIRM CONTROL OF EOKA,
THE MILITANT ORGANIZATION OF THE LATE GENERAL GRIVAS,
HAVE BEEN GIVING FOOD FOR SPECULATION TO THE CYPRIOT PRESS.

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"FOREIGN DIPLOMATS HERE DISCUSSED THAT

THE SOVIET ACTIONS IN THE FOUR WESTERN CAPITALS LAST WEEK WERE BASED ON SUCH REPORTS. WHILE DIFFERING IN EMPHASIS, THEY ESSENTIALLY REAFFIRMED THE SOVIET UNIMM'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR A FREE AND SOVEREIGN CYPRUS.

"ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES THE RUSSIAN MOVES INVOKED TWO CAUSES OF ANXIETY IN MOSCOW: FIRSTS THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES OF EXTREMIST GROUPS IN CYPRUS IN WHICH GREEK ARMY OFFICERS WERE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED; AND SECONDLY, REPORTS OF MOVES TO IMPOSE A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT WITHOUT CONYULZTING THE CYPRIOTS.

"RUSSIAN DIPLOMATS, WHILE REFUSING TO CONFIRM OR DENY THESE DIPLOMATIC STEPS, UNDERLINED THAT STATEMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS HAD BEEN ELABORATED IN A RECENT ARTICLE IN PRAVDA HEADLINED: 'WHERE THE THREADS OF THE CYPRUS PLOT LEAD TO.'

"THE GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY, IN REPLY TO THE SOVIET APPROACH LAST FRIDAY, REAFFIRMED ITS POSITION THAT GREECE GAVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AS THE ONLY PEACEFUL MEANS FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL SETTLEMENT.

"SUGGESTIONS OF GREEK-TURKISH CONTACTS AT OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT LEVEL, IN AN ATTEMPT TO AGREE ON A SOLUTION AND IMPOSE IT JOINTLY IN CYPRUS, DID NOT SEEM TO GAIN MUCH CREDENCE AMONG DIPLOMATS HERE IN VIEW OF THE APPARENTLY ACRIMONIOUS STATE OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AS A RESULT OF THEIR DISPUTE OVER THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF WHICH IS SAID TO BE RICH IN OIL.

"AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THE SOVIET MOVES, UNLESS THEY RELY ON INSIDE INFORMATION OF A MORE SUBSTANTIAL NATURE, WOULD SEEM DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT MAKARIOS AGAINST HIS OPPONENTS,
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AND DISCOURAGE INITIATIVES FROM THE PARTIES INVOLVED TO DIGRESS FROM THE AGREED LINE OF INDEPENDENCE."

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